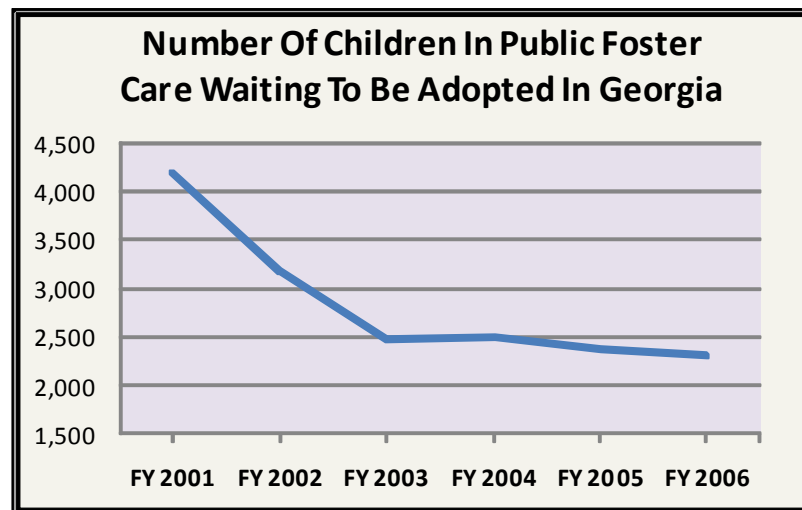




HEALTHY

- IMPROVE Health of Children

GOCF outcome indicator: out of home placement
-for children ages 0-5, elementary, middle, high school students



Data source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families Children's Bureau, 2008.

According to the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), “foster care is a state program that provides temporary substitute homes for children whose families cannot provide a safe and nurturing environment for them.” Reasons for placement in foster care include but are not limited to child abuse and neglect, severe emotional or behavioral conditions, or parental problems such as illness or death. In most cases the main goals of foster care are a reunification of children with their parent(s) or primary caretaker(s) or adoption. In September of 2008, 463,000 children were in foster care in the United States; the average age of a child in foster care was 9.7 years old. The average length of stay for children in foster care was 27.2 months in the same year. Between October 2005 and September 2006, 38% of Georgia’s adopted children were classified as “special needs,” which often suggests unique physical or mental care. States may provide programs such as Georgia’s Children’s Medical Services, part of Special Health Care for Georgia’s Children, which provides specialty health care services to children under 21 with chronic conditions.

- In 2006, almost a quarter of the 515,000 children in foster care were in relative homes, and nearly half were in non-relative homes.
- In 2006, African-American and white children made up the highest percentage of children adopted at 42% and 45%.
- 6,722 children entered foster care in Georgia during fiscal year 2008. 8,861 exited during the same time span.
- **Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)** has consistently shown a slightly greater percentage of boys than girls in foster care.

Data sources: Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services, 2010. Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Office of Birth Outcomes, 2008. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2005. Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, 2009.